

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 11, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 18 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 18 are rejected. Claims 1, 2 and 18 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 18 remain pending in the present application.

This application is under final rejection. Applicant has presented arguments hereinbelow that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments to clarify issues upon appeal.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner states,

3. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action, i.e., the claims would be allowable if claim 1 and claim 18 are amended as suggested by the examiner.

Applicant appreciates Examiner's indication of allowability of the claims. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Accordingly, the claims are now clear and definite.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 18 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully

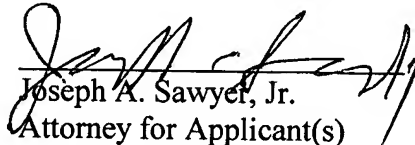
requests reconsideration of the rejections and objections to the claims, as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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